



General Assembly

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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Fourth session

Bali, Indonesia, 27 May-7 June 2002

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Consideration of the revised Chairman's paper transmitted from the third session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, together with other relevant inputs to the preparatory process.
3. Elaboration of possible elements for a political document to be submitted for consideration and adoption by heads of State or Government.
4. Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment.
5. Organization of the work of the Summit.
6. Other matters.
7. Report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its fourth session.

Annotations

Opening of the session

The Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development will hold its fourth session in Bali, Indonesia, from 27 May to 7 June 2002. The opening of the formal session on 27 May will be preceded by pre-session meetings, as follows: on 24 May, there will be meetings of groups of delegations; on 25 and 26 May, there will be informal consultations on the Chairman's text transmitted from the third session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee.



1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its first meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee will adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda and approve its organization of work.

Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

At the same meeting, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee will take action on a number of applications by intergovernmental organizations for accreditation to participate as observers in the proceedings, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

Also at the same meeting, in accordance with its decision 2001/PC/3, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee will take action on a number of applications by non-governmental organizations for accreditation to participate as observers in the proceedings.

2. Consideration of the revised Chairman's paper transmitted from the third session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, together with other relevant inputs to the preparatory process

At its third session, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee decided to entrust the Chairman with the preparation of a revised paper containing a draft "implementation document" for transmission to the fourth session for further consideration.

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee will consider the revised Chairman's paper, together with other inputs to the preparatory process, as appropriate, which will also allow it to address ways of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development, and to evaluate and define the future role and programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

In the light of the outcomes of the pre-session consultations referred to above, an open-ended drafting group will be established to deal with matters related to sustainable development governance and other outstanding matters related to the draft "implementation document".

The process on sustainable development governance will start with an informal meeting that will provide an opportunity to deepen the understanding of issues involved and proposals made in that context.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the revised Chairman's paper transmitted from the third session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee (A/CONF.199/PC/___)

Report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its third session (A/CONF.199/PC/14)

3. Elaboration of possible elements for a political document to be submitted for consideration and adoption by heads of State or Government

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/199, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, at its fourth and final session, drawing upon the agreed text of the "implementation document" referred to above, will prepare a concise and focused document that emphasizes the need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, reconfirms the need for an integrated and strategically focused approach to the implementation of Agenda 21, and addresses the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in that regard. The document submitted for further consideration and adoption by the Summit should reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to a North-South partnership, a higher level of integrated solidarity and accelerated implementation of sustainable development.

To facilitate that goal, a series of informal plenary meetings will be held during the session in preparation for the high-level segment. Those meetings will enable the Chairman to elaborate a paper for the high-level segment outlining views on the contents and possible elements of the "political document". Initial inputs for discussion will include:

- Outcomes of the second and third sessions of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee;
- Information provided by the Vice-Chairs from Egypt and Canada on various discussions/consultations relevant to the issue;
- Outcome of the multi-stakeholder dialogue;
- Input from the Secretary-General's Panel.

Consideration of those inputs, along with other inputs from delegations/groups, will allow the Chairman to prepare a paper on possible elements for a political document to be submitted to the high-level segment for further discussion.

The high-level segment, in accordance with the decision of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its first session, will be held during three days at the end of the fourth session, from 5 to 7 June 2000. The segment will start on the morning of 5 June 2002, with a presentation by the Chairman on the results of the discussion on possible elements for a "political document".

A general debate will follow, including heads of delegations and observers of intergovernmental organizations and major groups. After the general debate, an interactive dialogue, with ministerial participation, will be organized to further discuss possible elements for a political document.

The high-level segment is expected to result in elements for a political document to be transmitted by the Chairman for further consideration and negotiation during the Summit, as well as a Chairman's summary of discussions held during the high-level segment.

4. Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment

A multi-stakeholder dialogue segment will be organized at the beginning of the session in accordance with the decision of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its first session. The dialogue will be organized in a way that:

(a) Provides an opportunity for all stakeholders, including major groups, Governments and international organizations, to exchange views on the main issues to be discussed at the session, including the possible contents of the "political document", future priorities and sustainable development governance;

(b) Provides an opportunity for major groups to seek collective positions/views on issues to be addressed by the Summit;

(c) Allows further discussion/presentation/suggestion of implementation partnerships and initiatives.

5. Organization of the work of the Summit

The main elements of the organization of work of the Summit were determined by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its first session and subsequently approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/226, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee will decide on all remaining issues related to the organization of work of the Summit, including specific details of the series of events to be held in partnership with stakeholders (to be held during the first week of the Summit), the short multi-stakeholder event involving the highest level of representation of major groups and Governments, and the round-table meetings to be held at the level of heads of State or Government.

An open-ended working group will be established during the fourth session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee to deal specifically with the provisional organization of work of the Summit. That process will start as soon as possible during the session. Specific proposals, including on the format and other modalities of partnership events with stakeholders, as well as possible themes of the round tables at the level of heads of State and Government, will be presented by the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee.

6. Other matters

As was the case during the third session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, a series of informal meetings will be held throughout the session, at which all interested stakeholders, including Governments, international organizations and major groups, will discuss further "type two" outcomes of the Summit. An updated/refined list of initiatives/partnerships will be prepared as a result of those meetings.

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee may wish to consider other matters related to the preparations for the Summit, as appropriate.

7. Report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its fourth session

At the conclusion of its fourth session, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee will adopt its report for submission to the Summit.



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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Fourth session

27 May-7 June 2002, Bali, Indonesia

Item 1 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Proposed organization of work

1. During the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, four main official activities will be held, as described in section I to IV below.

I. Intergovernmental processes

Intergovernmental process A, "Elements of the political document of the Summit"

2. Informal plenary sessions will be held to enable the Chair to elaborate a paper for the high-level segment outlining views on the contents and possible elements of a "political document".

Intergovernmental process B, "Sustainable development governance and any other outstanding matters related to the 'implementation document'"

3. An open-ended drafting group will be convened to deal with matters related to sustainable development governance and other outstanding matters related to the "implementation document".

* A/CONF.199/PC/15.



Intergovernmental process C, "Organization of work of the Summit"

4. An open-ended working group will be established to deal specifically with the provisional organization of work of the Summit.

II. Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment

5. The multi-stakeholder dialogue segment will be held for two days at the beginning of the session, in accordance with the decision of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its first session. The dialogue will be organized as follows:

Plenary meeting

Chaired by the Chairman

Topic: Sustainable development governance

Parallel meetings of discussion groups

Discussion Group I

With participation of Governments, major groups, intergovernmental organizations etc.

Topic: Capacity-building for sustainable development

Discussion Group II

With participation mainly of major groups

Topic: Major groups' framework for partnership initiatives

III. High-level (ministerial) segment

6. The high-level (ministerial) segment will be held for three days at the end of the session, in accordance with the decision of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its first session.
7. The segment will begin with a presentation by the Chairman on the results of the discussion on possible elements for a political document.
8. A general debate (with a list of speakers) will follow, including heads of delegations and observers of intergovernmental organizations and major groups. After the general debate, an interactive dialogue will be organized to discuss possible elements for a political document.

IV. Continuation of presentations on/elaboration of "type two" outcomes

9. An informal process will be established throughout the session, at which stakeholders (Governments/organizations/major groups) may discuss further "type two" partnerships/initiatives.

* * *

10. A proposed timetable for the session is contained in the annex.

Annex**Proposed timetable***Date/time**Agenda item/programme***Week of 27-31 May 2002****Monday, 27 May**

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Plenary

Opening of the session

Introductory statements

1

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

1

Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

3-6 p.m.

2, 4

Plenary

Multi-stakeholder dialogue

Tuesday, 28 May

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

2, 4

Multi-stakeholder dialogue
(Discussion Group I)Multi-stakeholder dialogue
(Discussion Group II)Informal meeting on sustainable development
governance

3-6 p.m.

2, 4

Multi-stakeholder dialogue
(Discussion Group I)Multi-stakeholder dialogue
(Discussion Group II)Informal meeting on sustainable development
governance (if required)

or

Intergovernmental process B

or

Intergovernmental process C

Wednesday, 29 May

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

2, 4, 5

Plenary

Multi-stakeholder dialogue

Intergovernmental process B

or

Intergovernmental process C

3-6 p.m.

2, 3, 5

Intergovernmental process A

or

Intergovernmental process B

or

Intergovernmental process C

Date/time

Agenda item/programme

Thursday, 30 May

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

2, 3, 5

Two parallel meetings:
Intergovernmental process A
or
Intergovernmental process B
or
Intergovernmental process C

3-6 p.m.

2, 3, 5

Two parallel meetings:
Intergovernmental process A
or
Intergovernmental process B
or
Intergovernmental process C

Friday, 31 May

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

2, 3, 5

Two parallel meetings:
Intergovernmental process A
or
Intergovernmental process B
or
Intergovernmental process C

3-6 p.m.

2, 3, 5

Two parallel meetings:
Intergovernmental process A
or
Intergovernmental process B
or
Intergovernmental process C

Week of 3-7 June 2002**Monday, 3 June**

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

2, 3, 5

Two parallel meetings:
Intergovernmental process A
or
Intergovernmental process B
or
Intergovernmental process C

3-6 p.m.

2, 3, 5

Two parallel meetings:
Intergovernmental process A
or
Intergovernmental process B
or
Intergovernmental process C

Date/time	Agenda item/programme	
Tuesday, 4 June		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	2, 3, 5	Intergovernmental process C Two parallel meetings: Intergovernmental process A or Intergovernmental process B or Intergovernmental process C
3-6 p.m.	2, 3, 5	Two parallel meetings: Intergovernmental process A or Intergovernmental process B or Intergovernmental process C
Wednesday, 5 June		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	2,3,5	High-level segment Opening of the segment General debate
3-6 p.m.	2, 3, 5	General debate (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 6 June		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	2, 3, 5	General debate (<i>continued</i>)
3-6 p.m.	2, 3, 5	General debate (<i>concluded</i>)
Friday, 7 June		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	2, 3	Interactive dialogue on the "elements" of the political document
3-6 p.m.	2, 3	Interactive dialogue (<i>concluded</i>) Plenary
	6	Other matters
	7	Report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on its fourth session Closure of the session

Note: Intergovernmental process A will address "Elements of the political document of the Summit", intergovernmental process B will address "Sustainable development governance and any other outstanding matters related to the 'implementation document'" and intergovernmental process C will address "Organization of work of the Summit". Meetings on "type two" partnerships will take place throughout the session (the schedule will be determined in the light of progress of work on other issues). Two informal ministerial meetings will be organized, on Wednesday, 5 June, and Thursday, 6 June. The first will involve heads of international organizations, the second leaders of major groups.



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**Commission on Sustainable Development
acting as the preparatory committee for the
World Summit on Sustainable Development
Fourth session**

Bali, Indonesia, 27 May-7 June 2002

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of the revised Chairman's paper
transmitted from the third session of the Commission
acting as the preparatory committee, together with
other relevant inputs to the preparatory process**

**Letter dated 18 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative
of Niger to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the
Commission acting as the preparatory committee**

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you that the Niger has just hosted in Agadez, from 25 to 28 February 2002, the second meeting of the Panel of Eminent Personalities to consider the Poverty-Environment Nexus in the context of the timely and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The Panel has completed its work a few months prior to the holding in Johannesburg of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Its members made recommendations with regard to the Summit and launched an appeal entitled the "Agadez Call", in which the international community is called on to support sustained cooperation with developing countries that are affected by desertification. The report of the Panel and the Agadez Call are annexed hereto (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex issued as a document of the Summit and of its preparatory process.

(Signed) Ousmane **Moutari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/CONF.199/PC/15.



Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

***The UNCCD:
A Useful Tool for Sustainable Development
and Poverty Alleviation***

Report of the Panel of Eminent Personalities

In April 2001, the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) convened a Panel of Eminent Personalities to consider the Poverty – Environment Nexus in the context of timely and effective implementation of the UNCCD.

The Panel started its deliberations in October 2001 and reached the conclusions at its meeting in Agadez from 25 to 28 February 2002, enclosed in the attached brief report.

I. Meeting the Challenges of Global Poverty and Sustainable Development at WSSD

The Brundtland Commission report, fifteen years ago, crystallized the linkages between poverty and environmental degradation in the concept of **sustainable development**. The Rio Summit strongly endorsed this concept in 1992 and called for sustainable development to become the *modus vivendi* of the international community. Ten years later, as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) takes place in Johannesburg, environment, development and poverty eradication are once again central themes of discussions.

Poverty eradication and environmental policies could advance together. There are many poverties and many pollutions. The priority is to cooperate for the sustainable development of the communities who live in absolute poverty or suffer from extreme hunger. These are often rural communities in dryland areas.

Given limited financial and technical resources, the purpose of this document is to demonstrate that *the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa* (UNCCD) is one of the key instruments to deal with these issues because it is focused on areas of extreme poverty and social instability, and is a tool for development, environmental protection, and the prevention of forced migratory movements.

Land Degradation and Poverty

Desertification – i.e. land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from climatic variations and human activities – is a truly global phenomenon. It is affecting 3,6 billion hectares worldwide, an area equivalent to one quarter of the Earth's land mass. Desertification affects 70% of all drylands on this planet in more than 100 countries. 24 billion tons of topsoil are estimated to be lost every year as a result of this phenomenon, with serious impact on agricultural production.

Thirty-eight percent of the world's population – 2,3 billion people – live in dryland areas. It is estimated that the livelihood of 250 million people is directly affected by desertification, while another billion living in rural drylands is threatened by this phenomenon. While desertification is a universal phenomenon affecting every continent, it is most acute in Africa where the combination of extreme poverty and severity of land degradation is creating a dramatic situation. Almost three quarters of Africa's drylands – a third of Africa's land mass – are moderately to extremely degraded. Nearly half of Africa's population – or 325 million people – is threatened by desertification, and millions are already affected in dryland communities where basic subsistence is a daily challenge.

While there are few accurate statistics on poverty in the drylands, evidence shows a clear correlation between land degradation and high levels of impoverishment. There is a complex cause-effect relationship between desertification, population growth and poverty that is best illustrated as a poverty/land degradation downward spiral, whereby growing and impoverished populations overexploit their already stressed land resources, thereby further degrading a shrinking resource base and exacerbating poverty. In that cycle, poverty is both a cause and a consequence of land degradation, and the poor are both agents and victims of the process.

II. *The UNCCD as a Useful Tool for Achieving Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation*

The UNCCD was created to reverse the poverty – land degradation cycle and support the development needs of dryland communities in a sustainable way. It has very important characteristics:

1. *An Authentic Sustainable Development Focus*

The UNCCD is a strategic instrument to integrate environmental and developmental policies through its sustainable development focus.

1. *A Focus on Poverty-Stricken Communities in the Drylands*

The UNCCD offers a community-based, bottom-up, participatory approach designed to support local communities facing the double challenge of poverty and desertification. It establishes a remarkably useful framework to address the challenges of rural development and environmental protection in the drylands.

1. *A Tool to Prevent Socio-Economic Instability and Forced Migration*

The UNCCD offers advantages as an instrument that can prevent food insecurity, socio-economic disruptions and forced migrations through the sustainable development of rural communities, thus also reducing pressure on the urban communities by the rural poor. It is of concern that reduced international support for long-term development assistance has increased the need for emergency relief. The UNCCD addresses this challenge by channelling aid flows into productive long-term dryland agricultural development, and by providing a coordinated and integrative framework to support dryland communities development.

A Tool to Prevent Conflict Over Scarce Resources

The UNCCD geographical scope coincides with areas where conflict over scarce resources is prevalent. Where environmental scarcity did not degenerate into violent conflict, the critical factor in preventing resources-based conflicts was the ability of local people in resource-poor areas to intensify agricultural production, better manage their pastoral areas, agree joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources or diversify their livelihoods without degrading the environment.

An Integrative, Participatory Instrument

The UNCCD provides a framework for a participatory – thus democratic – and integrated approach to sustainable development: the National Action Programmes (NAPs). The NAPs promote policies and strengthen institutional frameworks which develop cooperation and coordination, in a spirit of partnership, between the donor community, governments at all levels, local populations and community groups, and facilitate access by local populations to appropriate information and technology and help them control the resources in their areas.

A Multi-Layered Cooperation Instrument

The UNCCD establishes a framework for the development of national, sub-regional and regional action programmes and international cooperation that are mutually reinforcing instruments. It also has the opportunities to establish synergies or linkages with other major environmental and socio-economic treaties including UNFCCC, CBD, Ramsar as well as regional agreements such as New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

A Partnership Approach to Financial Resources

The UNCCD is an effective instrument to coordinate financial resources from multiple sources, including those of foundations, non-governmental organisations and other private sector entities, with the aim of maximizing benefits for the dryland communities. The Convention operates through partnership agreements between donors, affected countries and dryland communities.

I. An Initiative for Dryland Communities

The early implementation of the Convention shows a high level of commitment from its developing countries Parties. Nearly fifty affected countries have completed their NAPs. Affected Parties are committed to the mobilization of internal resources and the creation of an enabling environment to combat desertification. In addition to the challenges of financing, the NAPs need to be mainstreamed by affected countries in their development strategies. This means raising the profile of sustainable development strategies within governmental activities. Countries affected by desertification also realize that the mainstreaming of dryland rural development activities into national development strategies will be necessary to raise support among funding agencies. They are making every effort to do that.

Developing countries affected by desertification are well under way to meeting their obligations, but there is not yet a clear indication that their developed country partners will support those initiatives, as envisaged under the partnership agreements. In 2000, ODA reached 53,7 billion, for an average contribution from DAC countries equivalent to 0,22% of their GDP. The proportion of aid to least developed countries – many of them Sub-Saharan African countries seriously affected by desertification, – fell from 27% in 1990 to 22% in 2000. During the last decade, the Global Environmental Facility allocated \$3 billion to project activities, supplemented by \$8 billion in additional financing. Out of that, projects containing a strong land degradation component have been allocated about US\$278 million by the GEF, US\$50 million is estimated to come out of the GEF portfolio as such. The decreasing proportion of ODA allocated to agriculture and to least developed countries, combined with the limited GEF resources available to land degradation activities exacerbated the marginalization, poverty and social problems of the dryland communities affected by desertification.

This certainly needs to be seriously addressed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The following recommendations are meant to serve this purpose:

II. Recommendations to the WSSD

The WSSD may wish to:

1. Recognize the clear link between land degradation and poverty in rural dryland areas and partly in urban areas
2. Acknowledge that the UNCCD is an important tool for achieving sustainable development and alleviating poverty through combating land degradation in drylands focusing on poverty-stricken communities
3. Recommend the development and implementation of a special dryland rural areas programme that identifies integrated projects for the sustainable development of small dryland communities
4. Invite the Governments of affected developing country Parties to:

- a) Establish a national enabling environment that ensures full participation of the local communities in the actions taken to combat desertification, and systematically open channels for CBOs and NGOs involvement in project elaboration and implementation as important tools for the empowerment of dryland communities
- b) Integrate measures to combat desertification into their land, water and energy policies and programmes
- c) Include among the priorities they put forward to the donor community for financial support action programmes to combat desertification
- d) Incorporate references to the UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAPs) in the World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)

5. Invite the donor community to:

- a) Support the implementation of the national action programmes under the umbrella of the UNCCD, and the decentralised projects at the local level, by providing predictable and stable financial measures.
- b) Provide financial and technological support for the development of regional action programmes to combat desertification under the umbrella of the UNCCD to improve monitoring and early warning related to desertification.
- c) Increase, and better target and coordinate ODA resources for short and long term activities through the development of partnership agreements as provided for in the Convention;
- d) Actively promote the systematic use of additional sources of funding, such as private foundations, fiscal incentives and alternative credit

6. Invite the GEF, at its next Assembly to:

- a) Adopt land degradation as a focal area for financing by the GEF and
- b) Declare the GEF as a financing mechanism for the implementation of the UNCCD

Annex: Members of the Panel of Eminent Personalities

Mr. Amin, Samir Economist, Egypt (resident of Senegal)
Mr. Bugnicourt, Jacques Executive Secretary, Environmental Development Action (ENDA), France (resident of Senegal)
Mr. Calzolaio, Valerio Former Deputy Minister of Environment, Member of the Italian Parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee, Italy
Mr. Chapman, Grant Senator, Australia
Mr. Chonchol, Jacques Economist, Former Minister, Director of the Doctorate Program in Latin American Society Studies, Universidad ARCIS, Chile
Mr. Holtz, Uwe Professor of Political Science, University of Bonn, former member of the German Parliament - Former Chair of its Development Cooperation Committee, Germany
Mr. Johnson, Pierre Marc Former Premier of Quebec, Counsel, Canada
Mr. Landim, Paes Federal Deputy, Former Professor of Law at the University of Brasilia., Brazil
Ambassador Sahnoun, Mohamed Secretary General's Special Envoy for Africa, Algeria
Ms. Savane, Marie-Angélique Sociologist, Former Director for Africa of UNFPA, Senegal
Mr. Strong, Maurice Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Former Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Canada
Mr. Tolba, Mostafa Former Executive Director of UNEP, President of the International Centre for Environment and Development, Egypt
Mr. Ziegler, Jean Former Member of Parliament, Professor at the University of Geneva, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, UNCHR, Switzerland

Second Session of The Panel of Eminent Personalities on the Poverty-Environment Nexus in the context of an Effective and Timely Implementation of the UNCCD:

The Agadez Call:

We, members of the Panel of Eminent Personalities on the Poverty-Environment Nexus in the context of the Effective and Timely Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, meeting in Agadez in the Republic of Niger from February 25 to 28, 2002,

Considering the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 26 to September 4, 2002.

Noting that in poor countries the geography of poverty coincides with that of regions affected by drought and desertification.

Having noticed inconsistencies between the implementation of some Rio commitments, particularly to the disadvantage of the Convention to Combat Desertification, and taking into account priority given to Africa by this instrument.

Considering also the importance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Having deliberated and reported on the interrelationship between sustainable development, land degradation and poverty alleviation,

Convinced that desertification and poverty are intimately related phenomena, and that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification constitutes an instrument of primary importance for poverty eradication, environmental protection and sustainable development in regions that are affected by desertification;

Having witnessed, during field trips, the state of poverty characterizing rural populations that are so gravely affected by desertification and that progress can more effectively be made through the further materialization of assistance from the international community;

1. Call on the international community to support sustained cooperation with developing countries that are affected by desertification, especially in Africa. In this regard, we call upon the most industrialized countries that will meet at the G8 Summit in Canada in June 2002 to pay particular attention to fighting desertification, and to take appropriate measures to strengthen the CCD as a primary tool for cooperation with developing affected countries;
2. Kindly invite the Prime Minister, Chief of Government of Niger to deliver this call to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to its preparatory process; and propose that arrangements be made to include this call on the agenda of discussions between Heads of States and Governments of the G8 and those representing Africa at the June 2002 Summit in Canada.



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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Fourth session

Bali, Indonesia, 27 May-7 June 2002

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of the revised Chairman's paper
transmitted from the third session of the Commission
acting as the preparatory committee, together with
other relevant inputs to the preparatory process**

Letter dated 5 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Mexico hosted the Meeting of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries in Cancún from 16 to 18 February 2002. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers of the Environment and officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the main developing countries which are considered to be megadiverse and which are home to over 70 per cent of the world's biological diversity. The countries represented were Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, South Africa and Venezuela.

The Meeting resulted in the establishment of the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries, which will act as a mechanism for consultation and cooperation to promote, in a fair and equitable manner, the benefits deriving from the use of biological diversity and its components.

The Cancún Declaration of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (see annex) was adopted at the Meeting.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as documents of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its Preparatory Committee.

(Signed) Adolfo Aguilar Zinser
Ambassador

* A/CONF.199/PC/15.



Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Cancun Declaration of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries

The Ministers with responsibility for the Environment and the representatives of Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, South Africa and Venezuela, meeting in Cancún, Mexico, on 18 February 2002,

Reaffirming the sovereign rights of States over their own natural resources, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and our commitment to attaining its objectives, in particular those set out in articles 8 (j), 15, 16 and 19,

Emphasizing the need to have our actions guided by a new ethic, in which equity prevails in the relations between nations and between men and women, and in which responsible attitudes ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into consideration the precautionary principle,

Acknowledging our considerable natural heritage, which accounts for approximately 70 per cent of the planet's biological diversity, along with our cultural wealth and diversity, and the need to preserve and utilize it in a sustainable manner,

Emphasizing that the resources of biological diversity and the environmental services that depend on it have an immense strategic, economic and social value and offer development opportunities for our populations and for the international community,

Recognizing the urgent need to develop human resources, institutional capacities, an appropriate legal framework and public policies to enable our countries to take an active part in the new economy associated with the use of biological diversity, genetic resources and biotechnology,

Underscoring the importance of the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities for the preservation of biological diversity, the development of knowledge and the sustainable use of its components,

Expressing our concern at the limitations of the various international instruments in effectively protecting the legitimate interests of the countries of origin of biodiversity,

Reaffirming our will to take an active part in the discussion of issues relating to biological diversity in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other regional and international forums,

Recognizing that megadiverse countries, particularly those in tropical and subtropical areas, have diverse and highly fragile ecosystems which make them vulnerable and can have a serious impact on their biodiversity,

HAVE DECIDED:

1. To create the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries as a mechanism for consultation and cooperation to promote our interests and priorities relating to the preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, with the following objectives:

(a) To present a common front in international forums dealing with biodiversity;

(b) To promote in situ and ex situ conservation of biodiversity in the countries of origin and to develop joint projects to conduct research, make inventories of resources and invest in the development and use of endogenous technologies that support conservation and sustainable economic activities at the local level;

(c) To ensure that the goods, services and benefits deriving from the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are an input for the development of our peoples, in order to, inter alia, achieve food security, overcome the health problems that affect us and preserve our cultural integrity;

(d) To explore jointly ways of exchanging information and harmonizing our national legislation on the protection of biological diversity, including that on related knowledge, as well as on access to biological and genetic resources and the sharing of benefits deriving from their sustainable use;

(e) To establish regulatory frameworks to create incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, taking into account existing subregional efforts and initiatives;

(f) To develop greater scientific, technical and biotechnological cooperation, including exchanges of experts, human resources development and the building of research-oriented institutional capacities in order to add value to the goods and services generated by biological diversity and the development of biotechnology, with the requisite risk assessment and application of the precautionary principle as required;

(g) To create an information system on biological diversity for research centres, national experience, agreements and ongoing projects as well as possible sources of financing for projects and any other information relevant to the cooperation objectives set out herein, as key elements in the creation of strategic opportunities and alliances;

(h) To encourage the creation of an international system for the effective promotion and safeguarding of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits deriving from the use of biodiversity and its components. This system should seek to cover, inter alia, the following: certification of legal provenance of the biological material, prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms for the transfer of genetic material, as requirements for patent applications and the granting of patents, in strict compliance with the conditions of access agreed by the countries of origin;

(i) To develop, in the framework of stronger South-South cooperation, strategic projects and bilateral, regional and international agreements for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and genetic resources;

(j) To explore the advisability and viability of creating a fund with voluntary contributions from the megadiverse countries, international financial institutions and agencies, foundations and the private sector in an effort to broaden the scope of cooperation on agreed projects for our common benefit. We must also, as a group, identify our own as well as multilateral sources of financing in order to launch joint projects. Those we consider to be a priority include projects related to information-sharing and scientific cooperation;

(k) To promote, in a spirit of cooperation and for our mutual benefit, efforts undertaken with other countries, the private sector and other stakeholders which demonstrate their responsibility through appropriate handling of the natural heritage of megadiverse countries, and actions that can contribute to the conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, in accordance with the Rio Principles and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(l) To strengthen the development of traditional knowledge through public policies and funding for indigenous and local communities with a view to transforming their innovations, where appropriate, into commercially viable projects that directly benefit those communities using, where possible, intellectual property rights such as trademarks and appellation of origin;

(m) To promote the development of a sui generis framework for the protection of traditional knowledge, based on a variety of instruments and mechanisms;

(n) To encourage the current system of intellectual property rights to take into account traditional knowledge connected with biological diversity when evaluating applications for patents and other related rights; and

(o) Jointly to combat the improper or unlawful acquisition of genetic resources, by exchanging information about negative practices by private or academic institutions, and to develop mechanisms to monitor the final use of the genetic resources of the countries of origin.

2. We call on those countries that are not yet parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to become parties to these agreements.

3. We agree to meet periodically at the ministerial and expert levels and hereby decide that, upon the conclusion of each annual Ministerial Meeting, the next rotating host country will take on the role of Secretary of the Group to ensure its continuity, the further development of cooperation among our countries and the implementation of the agreements and attainment of the objectives set forth herein.

4. Lastly, we express our appreciation and gratitude to the people and Government of Mexico for having convened and successfully organized this first meeting.